

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 5, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,112,174 to Wakisaka (hereinafter Wakisaka). Claims 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka, in view of "VoiceXML", Vol. 2, Issue 7 to Thomson (hereinafter Thomson).

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10, 11, and 19 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. As discussed in the following section, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced through the claim amendments.

Aspects Of Applicants' Invention

It may be useful, prior to addressing the cited references, to reiterate certain aspects of the invention. One embodiment, typified by amended Claim 1, is a method that assists users, such as callflow designers, in creating a speech recognition application callflow. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0006], lines 1-6; paragraph [0009], lines 1-5; and paragraph [0016], lines 1-12.) The method can include placing a symbolic representation of a prompt into a workspace of a graphical user interface for the speech recognition application workflow. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0018]-[0020]; see also FIGS. 2, 3A, 3B, and 4.)

The method further can include attaching to the prompt a pre-built grammar selected by a user and/or a user-entered individual new option entered by the user using the graphical user interface. Moreover, the sequence of steps – placing a symbolic

representation of a prompt and attaching to the symbolically represented prompt a new option or pre-built grammar – can be repeated until creation of the speech recognition application is complete. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0018], lines 15-18.)

Useful, Concrete, And Tangible Result

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims defines a useful invention. In particular, the claims are directed to systems and methods for assisting a user, such as a callflow designer, in creating or modifying a speech recognition application callflow. Applicants respectfully submit that the resulting creation or modification of a speech recognition application callflow is a useful, concrete, and tangible result. See, e.g., *State Street Bank & Trust v. Signature Financial Group*, 47 USPQ2d 1596, 1599 (Fed. Cir. 1998); see also *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communication, Inc.*, 50 USPQ2d 1447 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

The Claims Define Over The References

As already noted, independent Claims 1, 10, 11, and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Wakisaka. Wakisaka is directed to a speech recognition system that includes a separate "storage sections," one for storing a "plurality of dictionaries" and the other for storing one dictionary "selected from among the plurality of dictionaries." (Col. 2, lines 23-33; see also Col. 4, lines 35-38.) Additionally, Wakisaka's system includes a "change-over section" that selects one of the plurality of dictionaries in response to "change-over information," replacing one dictionary in the single-dictionary storage section with the selected dictionary. (Col. 2, lines 33-45; see also Col. 4, lines 32-43.)

The underlying approach of Wakisaka is to subdivide or separate out distinct dictionaries so as not to overburden the limited resources of the embedded speech recognition system in which the dictionaries are utilized at different times. (See, e.g., Col. 2, lines 14-18.) Although Wakisaka describes a speech recognition system, the

reference provides no teaching relevant to the creation or modification of a speech recognition application callflow.

For example, the dictionary change-over function performed by Wakisaka's system is initiated by speech input received from a system user, as pointed out at page 3 of the Office Action. Thus, the change-over is effected during speech recognition. It is a run-time process. It has no relation to the creation or modification of a speech recognition application callflow, which is performed *prior to* any actual speech recognition. Accordingly, Wakisaka's system does not provide any kind of assistance to an application developer, callflow designer, or similar such user.

Not surprisingly, Wakisaka fails to expressly or inherently teach every feature recited in amended Claims 1, 10, 11, and 19. Firstly, Wakisaka does not provide a graphical user interface. As already noted, Wakisaka relies on voice input supplied during the actual process of speech recognition. More particularly, Wakisaka does not place into a workspace of the graphical user interface a symbolic representation of a prompt. Wakisaka does not provide a symbolic representation corresponding to a prompt, let alone one presented in a graphical user interface.

Secondly, Wakisaka fails to teach the step of attaching to the prompt a pre-built grammar selected by a user and/or a user-entered individual new option entered by the user using the graphical user interface. Again, Wakisake only provides for voice input into an existing speech recognition system.

Moreover, with respect to Claim 10 specifically, Wakisaka does not expressly or inherently teach distinguishing whether or not an individual option is a potential valid match to a recognition phrase or an annotation in a pre-built grammar. Accordingly, Wakisaka provides no mechanism for recognizing that the individual option is a potential valid match. Wakisaka does not respond to a recognized match by configuring the individual option to point to an entry in the pre-built grammar. Wakisaka similarly fails

to respond if the individual option fails to be a potential valid match to the recognition phrase or the annotation in the pre-built grammar. Specifically, Wakisaka does not provide a mechanism with which, upon determining that the individual option fails to be a potential valid match, the individual option is configured as a new entry in a new grammar automatically constructed to hold the new entry, such that the new entry has text corresponding to text of the individual option and serving both as a recognition string and an associated annotation.

Accordingly, Wakisaka fails to expressly or inherently teach every feature recited in Claims 1, 10, 11, and 19. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claims 1, 10, 11, and 19 define over the prior art. Applicants further respectfully submit that, whereas each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 10, 11, or 19 while reciting additional features, these dependent claims likewise define over the prior art.

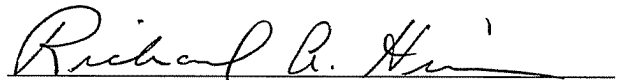
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577

Richard A. Hinson, Registration No. 47,652

Customer No. 40987

Post Office Box 3188

West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188

Telephone: (561) 653-5000